

**VA**



**U.S. Department  
of Veterans Affairs**



**Western North Carolina VA Health Care System**

**Charles George VA Medical Center  
Asheville, NC**

**PGY1 Pharmacy Residency**

## **About the Western North Carolina VA Health Care System (WNCVAHCS)**

The Western North Carolina VA Health Care System (WNCVAHCS) is an innovative care system within the Veterans Integrated Service Network 6 (VISN 6). VISN 6 includes medical centers in Asheville, Durham, Fayetteville, and Salisbury in North Carolina; and Hampton, Richmond, and Salem in Virginia; and 38 outpatient clinics in North Carolina and Virginia.

The WNCVAHCS provides exceptional care that improves the health and well-being of Veterans. Our teams work in an integrated environment that supports learning, discovery, and continuous improvement.

Health care services are provided at 4 locations in a 23-county area of western North Carolina: the WNCVAHCS and 3 community-based outpatient clinics (CBOCs) in Franklin, Hickory, and Forest City.

### **Introduction to Pharmacy Residency Program**

The Western North Carolina VA Health Care System PGY1 Pharmacy Residency Program is designed to create an environment that is inclusive, equitable, and supportive of prospective candidates, residents, and preceptors regardless of race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, gender identification, economic status, physical and mental abilities, religious values, or political affiliations.

The vision of the VA Pharmacy Residency Program is to give every veteran access to a VA pharmacist to optimally manage their prescriptions.

The mission of VA Pharmacy Residency Program is to train pharmacists for the profession and VA.

### **Overview of Program**

#### Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Western North Carolina VA Health Care System (WNCVAHCS) PGY1 pharmacy residency program is to build upon Doctor of Pharmacy (PharmD) education and outcomes to develop pharmacist practitioners with knowledge, skills, and abilities as defined in the educational competency areas, goals, and objectives. Residents who successfully complete this residency program will be skilled in diverse patient care, practice management, leadership, and education, and be prepared to provide patient care, seek board certification, and pursue advanced education and training opportunities including postgraduate year two (PGY2) residencies.

#### Description

This 12-month residency program is dedicated to developing exceptional VA-trained clinical pharmacist practitioners that can independently manage pharmacotherapy for a wide range of conditions in preparation for independent practice and anticipation of board certification. The program prepares pharmacy residents for direct patient care positions in ambulatory care settings as well as post-graduate year two (PGY2) residency or fellowship programs. Residents will be provided the opportunity to accelerate their clinical growth beyond entry-level professional competence in patient-centered care, pharmacy operational services, and to further the development of leadership skills that can be applied to any practice setting.

#### Diversity Equity & Inclusion

The mission of the Department's Diversity and Inclusion (D&I) Program is to grow a diverse workforce and cultivate an inclusive work environment, where employees are fully engaged and empowered to deliver the outstanding services to our Nation's Veterans, their families, and beneficiaries.

It is our vision that VA is the leader in public service in creating a high-performing workforce by capitalizing on its diversity, purposefully embracing inclusion, and empowering all employees to perform to their highest potential. For more information, please visit the [Office of Resolution Management, Diversity & Inclusion \(ORMDI\) website](#).

## Required Learning Experiences

### Block

- Orientation (1 month)
- Acute Care (1 month)
- Geriatrics: Community Living Center (CLC) (1 month)

### Longitudinal

- Academia/Precepting/Teaching (4-6 hours/week\* | 11 months)
- Adverse Drug Event Reporting (4-6 hours/week\* | 11 months)
- Anticoagulation (4 hours/week | 9 months)
- Formulary Management (4-6 hours/week\* | 11 months)
- Intake/Transitions of Care (4 hours/week | 9 months)
- Medication Use Evaluation (MUE) (4-6 hours/week\* | 6 months)
- Pharmacy Management (4-6 hours/week\* | 6-9 months)
- Primary Care (PACT) (16 hours/week | 9 months)
- Quarterly Development Plan (4-6 hours/week\* | 12 months)
- Residency Project (4-6 hours/week\* | 12 months)
- Inpatient Pharmacy Operations (Staffing) (4 hours/week | 10 months)
- VA PRPO Teaching and Precepting Certificate (4-6 hours/week\* | 10 months)

\* - schedule includes 4-6 hours/week of administrative time for longitudinal projects and learning experiences

## Elective Learning Experiences

### Block

- Infectious Diseases/Antimicrobial Stewardship (1 month)

### Longitudinal

- Academia (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Academic Detailing (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Community Based Outpatient Clinic (CBOC) (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Endocrine Diabetes Clinic (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Geriatrics: Home Based Primary Care (HBPC) (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Geriatrics: Primary Care (Geri-PACT) (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Innovation (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Metabolic Bone Clinic (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Oncology (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Pain Management (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Population Management (8 hours/week | 3 months)
- Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Clinic (8 hours/week | 3 months)

## Residency Certificate

The WNCVAHCS shall recognize those pharmacists who have successfully completed the residency program by awarding an appropriate certificate. No certificate shall be issued to any individual who has failed to complete the medical center's described program. ASHP is responsible for accrediting this residency program. The WNCVAHCS is responsible for awarding the certificate of residency to deserving individuals. The certificate will also contain information indicating graduation from an ASHP-accredited program.

### Requirements to Receive a Residency Certificate

- Complete 52-week residency program
- Licensed with 120 days of residency program start date
  - Must be licensed for at least 2/3 (35 weeks) of the program
- Meet all ASHP PGY1 Residency requirements
  - Must "achieve for residency" (ACHR) ≥80% of assigned learning objectives
    - Cannot have any learning objectives with "needs improvement" status
  - Satisfactory completion of all learning experiences. If a learning experience is not satisfactorily completed, appropriate remedial work must be completed as determined by the preceptors and RPD.
  - Completion of a residency project (Objective R2.2)
- Completion of all evaluations in PharmAcademic, assignments, and/or projects as defined by RPD/preceptor
- Compliance with all institutional and departmental policies

Reasons why a residency certificate may be withheld include, but are not limited to:

- Failure to achieve the above requirements
- Revocation of pharmacy license
- Per VHA Handbook 1400.08, failure to function within graduated levels of responsibility or to communicate significant Veteran care issues to the supervising practitioner
- Dismissal from the residency program

## Residency Benefits

### Stipend

\$47,397

### Leave

- 13 days of paid accrued annual leave (AL) per year at a rate of 4 hours per pay period
- 13 days of paid accrued sick leave (SL) per year at a rate of 4 hours per pay period
- 11 paid holidays (see respective year Federal calendar for exact dates)
- Paid administrative leave (authorized absence; AA) to attend approved educational meetings

### Other Benefits

- Enrollment in government health insurance plan (can include dependents)
- Employee Assistance Program  
<https://vaww.va.gov/OHRM/WorkLife/HealthWellness/EAP/>
- Federal discounts at many businesses
- VA qualifies as an appropriate employer for the Public Service Loan Forgiveness program
- Financial support for professional meeting attendance may be available upon request

## Applicant Check List

- Letter of intent
  - Should describe the following:
    - Your interest in this specific program
    - Short-term career goals
    - Long-term career goals
    - Strengths
    - Areas of improvement in regard to performance in a residency program
- Response to personal screening question
  - *"Share an experience that helped you grow and improve personally"*
  - Limit response to 1 page
- Curriculum Vitae
- Three (3) letters of recommendation
- Official Transcripts

Applications will be submitted through The Pharmacy Online Residency Centralized Application (PhORCAS).

**Deadline for application is 1/2/2024**

### ASHP Program Code

36103

### National Match Services (NMS) Program Code

250713

### For more information please contact:

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2023-2024 PGY1 Pharmacy Residents

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[VA Pharmacy Residency Program - Pharmacy Benefits Management Services](#)